

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:193
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2006
REPORT OF ADARSH MISRA COMMITTEE
Singh Shri Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan);Suman Shri Ramji Lal

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has constituted a committee under Smt. Adarsh Misra to find out the facts regarding the Vidarbha region;
- (b) if so, whether the committee has submitted its report to the Government;
- (c) if so, the reasons/factors stated in the report for the poor condition of Vidarbha region; and
- (d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regards?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M. V. RAJASEKHARAN)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Planning Commission had constituted a 'Fact Finding Team' under Smt. Adarsh Misra, the then Principle Adviser, Planning Commission, to study the situation regarding disparities in regional development in Maharashtra with particular emphasis on Vidarbha region and related issues. The Team has since submitted its report.

(c): The Report highlighted the various problems relating to the cultivation and marketing of cotton, including the high cost of cultivation, high incidence of pests, low productivity and un-remunerative prices as the main reasons/factors for the poor condition of Vidarbha region. The Report also highlighted the relative deprivation of the region in respect of public investment, especially in irrigation.

(d): Government of India has approved a special rehabilitation package involving an amount of Rs. 3873.26 crore in respect of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra covering six districts namely Wardha, Yavatmal, Amravati, Akola, Buldhana and Washim.

The package of assistance included ex-gratia assistance from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund to alleviate the sufferings of debt-stressed farmers, debt relief to farmers, increased credit flow, interest waiver, assured irrigation facilities covering an area of 1.59 lakh hectares at a cost of Rs. 2177.26 crore over a period of three years, subsidized seed replacement programme, watershed development, horticulture development, micro irrigation, extension services and programmes for generating subsidiary income opportunities for farmers.